

New River Train/Honey, You Can't Love One

American Folk Song

Refrain

Musical notation for the Refrain of 'New River Train'. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a single staff. Chords are indicated above the staff: D, D, D, A7, D, G, A7, D. The lyrics are: 'I'm rid-in' on that new ri-ver train, I'm rid-in' on that new ri-ver train. The same old train that brought me here. gon-na car-ry me back a - gain.'

I'm rid-in' on that new ri-ver train, I'm rid-in' on that new ri-ver train. The same old train that brought me here. gon-na car-ry me back a - gain.

Verse

Musical notation for the Verse of 'New River Train'. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a single staff. Chords are indicated above the staff: D, D, D, A7, D, G, A7, D. The lyrics are: 'Oh, Hon-ey, you can't love__ one. Oh, Hon-ey, you can't love__ one, You can't love one and still have your fun. Oh. Hon-ey, you can't love one.'

Oh, Hon-ey, you can't love__ one. Oh, Hon-ey, you can't love__ one, You can't love one and still have your fun. Oh. Hon-ey, you can't love one.

2. Honey, you can't love two.
Honey, you can't love two.
You can't love two and still be true,
Oh. Honey, you can't love two.

3. Honey, you can't love three.
Honey, you can't love three.
You can't love three and still be with me,
Oh Honey, you can't love three.

MAKE UP ADDITIONAL VERSES....

SINGING

These songs can be sung as two separate songs, in verse and refrain form as presented here, or with the first melody used occasionally to tell the story of the “New River Train” (see below). They are basically the same tune with rhythm variations. This offers opportunities for comparing and contrasting. Teach “New River Train” first, adding appropriate instruments. Later teach “Honey, You Can’t Love One”. Older students love adding verses to this and weaving it into a ballad with the first song.

PLAYING

It is effective to add sandblocks playing eighth notes and the autoharp to accompany “New River Train”. For a challenge, divide your class (or part of your class) into four groups and give each group a different instrument...drums, rhythm sticks, tambourine, and triangles, for example. Sing the song four times. The first time each instrument group takes turns playing 8 beats a piece. The second time they take turns playing every 4 beats. Next every 2 beats and finally alternating on every beat. Add a student playing randomly on a train whistle.

CREATING

Have the students invent an introduction and coda to the train song by using train sound effects. This can be done vocally with sounds like sh-sh, ch-ch, chug, whoosh, clickety-clack, etc. Found sounds and instrument sounds can also be used. Make up new verses to “Honey, You Can’t Love One”.

LISTENING

Teach students about the I-IV-V7 accompaniment chords for this song. Once the students are familiar with the song, see if they can tell where the chord changes should go just by listening. Accompany them on piano or autoharp and have them raise their hands when they think the chord should change. If they can do this, play it again and change to the wrong chord to see if they recognize which is the correct chord. Eventually, have the students suggest the chord progression and play it by ear themselves on the autoharp.

CURRICULUM INTEGRATION (Language Arts/Story telling)

This is a fun song combination to turn into a story. While playing a simple chord accompaniment on the piano, begin to tell a “love” story that goes something like this:

There was a waitress named Cindy Lou in Salt Lake City that had a friend named Sally in Texas. She saved her money and took the New River Train there to visit her. (Song) While she was in Texas, she met a man named Joe and fell in love. Elaborate on where they went etc. When her vacation time was over, she told Joe she would work extra shifts so she could come back again. Then she headed home on the train. (Song) Her friend calls her from Texas and says, “Cindy Lou, I have bad news! I saw Joe at the movies with another girl.” Cindy Lou calls Joe and he says...(Sing verse one of “Honey” song.) She sings back...(Sing verse two of song.) He begs forgiveness. Then Sally calls again and says “Cindy Lou, I have bad news!” Continue elaborating the antics of Joe and other girls and adding verses. The children **love** making up new rhyming patterns and verses and singing the parts back and forth between Joe and Cindy Lou. They also like adding ideas about what happens with this romance. Have fun!

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